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(54) Video camera for 16:9 and 4:3 image aspect ratios.

(57) A video camera includes an imaging device (CCD) having a photosensitive surface of a first aspect ratio (16:9) and aspect ratio converting means (FIFO memory) by which a video signal of the first aspect ratio fed from the imaging device is converted into a video signal of a second aspect ratio (4:3). It also has aspect ratio identification means for adding an aspect ratio identification signal to the first aspect ratio video signal from the imaging device or to the second aspect ratio video signal from the aspect ratio converting means. The video signals of the two aspect ratios may be simultaneously output and may also be displayed at the first aspect ratio (16:9) with marks added to the display signals to indicate where the second aspect ratio (4:3) area appears in the display.

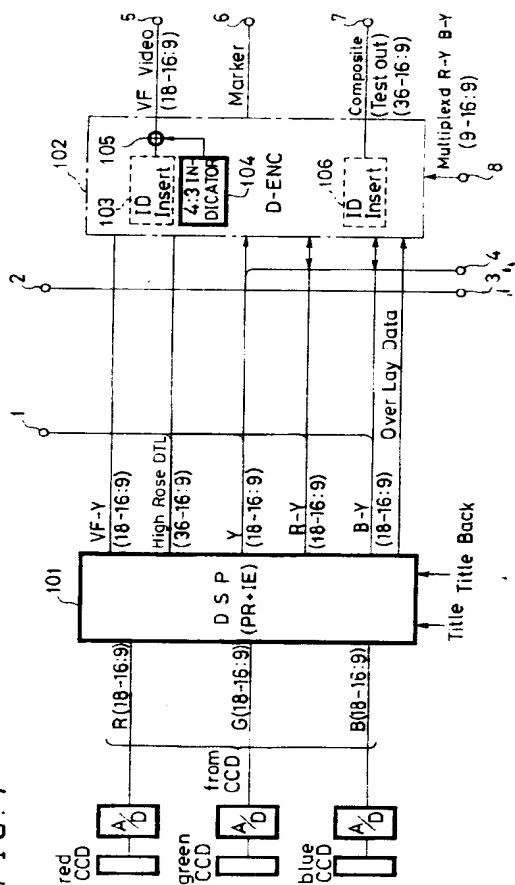


FIG. 1

This invention relates to a video camera.

While the television system is shifting over from the current standard system of 4:3 aspect ratio (for example, NTSC system) to, for example, the EDTV (Extended Definition Television) system of 16:9 aspect ratio, which is compatible with and wider than this present standard system, both systems coexist during the shifting period.

Thus, the applicants have previously proposed a video camera for producing a signal of the wide aspect ratio television system compatible with the present standard television system. This video camera, as shown in Fig. 13 of the accompanying drawings, includes imaging devices 310, 311 for picking up a wide aspect ratio image and an amplified and digitized version of this is supplied to an aspect ratio converter 314 for converting the wide aspect ratio video signal produced from the imaging devices into a video signal of the present standard aspect ratio television system. Switching means 315 are provided for switching the wide aspect ratio video signal and the present standard aspect ratio television system video signal produced from the aspect ratio converter. The video signal selected by the switch means 315 is supplied to a processor 316 for processing in various ways, and supplying it to an output 317 and an electronic viewfinder 321 for monitoring the selected aspect ratio image.

This video camera is convenient for practical use and economical since the current standard television system aspect ratio video signal and the wide aspect ratio video signal are selectively obtained by the combination of the imaging devices for picking up a wide aspect ratio image and the aspect ratio converter.

It has the drawback, however, that it cannot simultaneously produce the present standard television system aspect ratio video signal and the wide aspect ratio video signal.

An object of the present invention is to provide a video camera capable of simultaneously producing a first video signal of standard aspect ratio, and a second video signal of wide aspect ratio.

A further object of the invention is to provide a video camera capable of simultaneously producing two video signals of different aspect ratios and of discriminating the aspect ratio of the first video signal from that of the second video signal.

A further object of the invention is to provide a video camera of the above type which can easily indicate, when the first aspect ratio video signal is received, the range therein in which the second aspect ratio video signal is displayed.

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a video camera including an imaging device having a photosensitive surface of a wide aspect ratio (a ratio of a lateral length to a longitudinal length, X:Y) wider than a standard aspect ratio (a ratio of a lateral length to a longitudinal length, x:y), and which

produces a video signal, and also aspect ratio converting means by which the wide aspect ratio video signal from the imaging device is converted into a video signal of the standard aspect ratio.

5 The converting means may comprise, timebase extending means which is supplied with the wide aspect ratio video signal from the imaging device, extracts a video internal, xY/yX from each line signal of the wide aspect ratio video signal, and extends the timebase by yX/xY times so as to produce the standard aspect ratio video signal.

10 Thus, the video camera of the invention is able to simultaneously produce the standard aspect ratio video signal and the side aspect ratio video signal wider than the standard aspect ratio. In addition, it is convenient for practical use and economical.

15 According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a video camera including an imaging device having a photosensitive surface of a first aspect ratio, aspect ratio converting means by which a video signal of the first aspect ratio fed from the imaging device is converted into a video signal of a second aspect ratio, and identification signal adding means for adding an aspect ratio identification signal to the first aspect ratio video signal from the imaging device or the second aspect ratio video signal from the aspect ratio converting means.

20 Thus the first and second aspect ratios of video signals can be discriminated by detecting the aspect ratio identification signal in the first or second aspect ratio video signal or the presence or absence thereof. Thus when the video signals are received, the horizontal size of the reproduced image can be changed to be optimum on the screen of the receiver.

25 According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a video camera including an imaging device for producing a video signal of a first aspect ratio, aspect ratio converting means by which the video signal of the first aspect ratio fed from the imaging device is converted into a video signal of a second aspect ratio, and mark signal adding means for adding to the first aspect ratio video signal from the imaging device a mark signal indicative on display of a range in which the second aspect ratio video signal is displayed.

30 Thus when the first aspect ratio video signal is received, it is possible to recognize a range in which the second aspect ratio video signal is displayed.

35 The aspects of the invention may advantageously be combined.

40 Two embodiments (of, for example, a video camera for producing the NTSC system television signal and the EDTV system television signal compatible therewith) of the invention will be described in detail with reference to the drawings.

45 This invention will be further described by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a block diagram of part of a first embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of another part of the embodiment of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of another part of the embodiment of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of still another part of the embodiment of Fig 1.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of part of a second embodiment of the invention.

Figure 6 is a block diagram of another part of the embodiment of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a block diagram of another part of the embodiment of Figure 5.

Figure 8 is a block diagram of still another part of the embodiment of Figure 5.

Figure 9 is a diagram showing how to display the images of different aspect ratios.

Figure 10 is a waveform diagram of video signals including signals to be displayed.

Figure 11 is a diagram showing the effective screen of a CRT.

Figure 12 is a diagram showing the conversion of a 16:9 aspect ratio video signal into a 4:3 aspect ratio video signal; and

Figure 13 is a block diagram of a prior art video camera circuit.

First, a video camera of a first embodiment will be described with reference to Figs 1 through 4. Figs 1 through 4 show the four sections of the video camera respectively. All or part of terminals 1 - 8 are provided in each of the four circuit sections shown in Figs. 1 through 4. The terminals represented by the same reference numerals are connected to each other.

Referring first to Figure 1, the imaging devices with 16:9 aspect ratio photosensitive surfaces, for example, red, green and blue CCDs, produce picked-up image signals, and supply them to an A/D converter, by which they are converted at a sampling frequency of, for example, 18 MHz into a digital red signal R, digital green signal G and digital blue signal B. These digital signals are supplied to a digital signal processor (DSP) 101 so as to undergo signal processing (PR) and image enhancement processing (IE). This processor 101 is also supplied with a digital title signal (Title) and a digital title back signal (Title Back). Thus, this processor 101 produces:

- (1) a digital viewfinder luminance signal (VF-Y) of 18 MHz-sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (2) a digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL) of 36 MHz-sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (3) a digital luminance signal (Y) of 18 MHz-sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (4) a digital red color difference signal (R-Y) of 18 MHz-sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (5) a digital blue color difference signal (B-Y) of

18 MHz-sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio; and

(6) a digital over lay signal (Over Lay Data).

These signals are supplied to a digital encoder 102.

The digital encoder 102 produces a viewfinder digital video signal (VF Video) of 18 MHz-sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, a digital marker signal (Marker) and a test output digital composite color video signal (Composite) of 36 MHz-sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio.

In the digital encoder 102, identification signal adding circuits 103, 106 add an aspect ratio identification signal of one bit indicating the 16:9 aspect ratio to the luminance signals (VF-Y), (Y) at a predetermined line number of each vertical blanking period.

In addition, the luminance signal (VF-Y) added with the aspect ratio identification signal is supplied to an adder (which may be a multiplier) 105, by which it is added with a digital mark signal from a mark signal generator 104. This digital mark signal indicates which region of the 16:9 aspect ratio image of the video signal includes the 4:3 aspect ratio image of the video signal. The aspect ratio conversion is performed by an FIFO memory 126 as a timebase converter which will be described later with reference to Fig.3. The adder produces a digital video signal (VF Video) including the mark signal.

Fig.9A of Fig.9 shows a reproduced 16:9 aspect ratio image. Fig.9B shows this reproduced 16:9 aspect ratio image and two left and right vertical straight broken lines (of black and white or certain colors) by which it is indicated that the reproduced 4:3 aspect ratio image is included therebetween in the 16:9 aspect ratio image. Fig.9C shows that the reproduced 4:3 aspect ratio image is the remainder of the subtraction of the shaded left and right vertical stripes (black and white or certain color bands) from the reproduced 16:9 aspect ratio image.

Fig.10A of Fig.10 shows a line signal of the video signal, for example, the luminance signal. Fig.10B shows a line signal of the luminance signal including the mark signal for the black cut lines. Fig.10C shows a line signal of the luminance signal including the mark signal for the black bands. Fig.10D shows a line signal of the luminance signal including the mark signal for the white bands.

Another part of the embodiment will be described with reference to Fig.2. The viewfinder digital video signal (VF Video) from the digital encoder 102 shown in Fig.1 is supplied to a D/A converter 107 by which it is converted into an analog signal. This viewfinder analog video signal is supplied through a low-pass filter 108 of which the cutoff frequency is 18 MHz, and through a change-over switch 109 to an adder 110. The marker signal (Marker) from the digital encoder 102 is supplied to an OR gate 115, and a digital character signal from an external character signal generator (not shown) is supplied to the OR gate 115. The

character signal from the output thereof is supplied through a low-pass filter/attenuator 116 and an on-off switch 117 to the adder 110, where it is added to the output signal from the change-over switch 110. One of the return video signals (a broadcast video signal, a reproduced video signal from a VTR and so on) of which the aspect ratios 16:9 and 4:3, respectively is selected by a change-over switch 114, and supplied through an on-off switch 113 to the adder 110. The output from the adder 110 is supplied to a viewfinder (for example, a CRT receiver) 111, and an identification signal detector 112 of the viewfinder 11 detects the presence or absence of the identification signal of 16:9 aspect ratio.

The viewfinder 111 has a CRT of 4:3 aspect ratio as shown in Fig.11. If the identification signal detector 112 does not detect the identification of 16:9 aspect ratio at a predetermined line number during the vertical blanking period of the viewfinder video signal, the reproduced image of 4:3 aspect ratio is directly displayed on the CRT. If the 16:9 aspect ratio identification signal is detected, the vertical deflection circuit is controlled so that the vertical amplitude of the image is reduced to 3/4 as small as that of the original image, or that a reproduced image of 4:3x3/4, or 16:9 is displayed on the CRT as shown in Fig.11.

The digital composite color video signal of 36 MHz sampling frequency and of 16:9 aspect ratio from the digital encoder 102 shown in Fig.1 is supplied to a D/A converter 118 by which it is converted into an analog signal. The analog composite color video signal is supplied through a low-pass filter 119 of 36-MHz cutoff frequency to an adder 120, where it is selectively added to the character signal from the low-pass filter/attenuator 116 that is fed through the on-off switch 121. This adder produces the analog composite color video signal (VBS) of 16:9 aspect ratio.

Another part of the embodiment will be described with reference to Fig.3. Shown at 126 is a timebase converter, or an FIFO (Fast-In, Fast-out) memory of the asynchronous writing and reading type. This memory includes four FIFO memory elements 127a through 127d and an FIFO control circuit 128. This control circuit controls the four FIFO memory elements 127a through 127d to write and read, 36-MHz and 27-MHz clock signals to be selectively fed to the FIFO memory element 127a, and 18-MHz and 13.5MHz clock signals to be selectively fed to the other three FIFO memory elements 127b through 127d.

The detail signal (DTL) of 16:9 aspect ratio of, for example, the image shown in Fig.12(I) from the digital signal processor 101 shown in Fig.1 is written in the FIFO memory element 127a at the 36-MHz clock signal from the FIFO control circuit 128. The luminance signal (Y), red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of the 16:9 aspect ratio image shown in Fig.12 (I) from the signal processor

101 are written in the FIFO memory elements 127b through 127d at the 18-MHz clock signal from the FIFO control circuit 128.

The video interval of each line signal of the detail signal (DTL) shown in Fig.12(I) and which is stored in the FIFO memory element 127a is cut off at the rate of 12/16 as shown in Fig.12(II). Each cut video interval is read therefrom at the 27-MHz clock signal from the FIFO control circuit 128 so that its timebase can be extended at the rate of 16/12 as shown in Fig.12 (III). Similarly, the video interval of each line of the luminance signal (Y), red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) stored in the FIFO memory elements 127b through 127d is cut off at the rate of 12/16 as shown in Fig.12(II). Each cut video interval is read therefrom at the 13.5-MHz clock signal from the FIFO control circuit 128 so that its time base can be extended at the rate of 16/12 as shown in Fig.12 (III).

Thus, the FIFO memory elements 127a through 127d produce the detail signal (DTL), luminance signal (Y), red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 4:3 aspect ratio as shown in Fig.12 (IV), respectively. These signals are supplied to a digital encoder 129, thereby encoded so that it produces a high-resolution composite color video signal, and high-resolution luminance signal (Y), red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y). These signals are converted into analog signals by a D/A converter 130. The analog signals are supplied to a low-pass filter 131 of which the cutoff frequency is 27 MHz, so that the high-frequency components are removed. The low-pass filter thus produces the analog composite color video signal (VBS), luminance signal (Y), red color difference signal and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 4:3 aspect ratio high-resolution. The luminance signal (Y) is further supplied to an adder 132, where it is added with the horizontal and vertical synchronizing signals and color burst signal.

This will be generally described below. The wide aspect ratio video signals from imaging devices (CCDs) having a wider aspect ratio (X:Y) than the standard aspect ratio (x:y) are supplied to the FIFO memory 126. The FIFO memory 126 extracts a period xY/yX from the video interval of each line signal of the wide aspect ratio video signals which are fed from the imaging devices and then extends the timebase to yX/xY times the original timebase so as to produce the standard aspect ratio video signals.

The FIFO memory 126 is capable of the bidirectional operation, or has the function to convert the 4:3 aspect ratio video signal from a digital VTR (not shown) into the 16:9 aspect ratio video signal as will be described later.

The luminance signal (Y), red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 16:9 aspect ratio from the digital signal processor 101

shown in Fig.1 are supplied to an identification signal adding circuit 122. The identification signal indicating the 16:9 aspect ratio is added to a predetermined line number during the vertical blanking period of the luminance signal (Y). The output therefrom is supplied to D/A converters 123, thereby converted into the analog signals. The analog signals are supplied to low-pass filters 124 of which the cutoff frequency is 18 MHz, so that the high-frequency components are removed. The low-pass filters thus produce an analog luminance signal (Y), analog red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 16:9 aspect ratio. The luminance signal (Y) is further supplied to the adder 125, where it is added with the horizontal and vertical synchronizing signals and the color burst signal.

The circuit arrangement shown in Fig.4 will be described below. Shown at 133 is a bidirectional circuit of which the left terminals are connected to the FIFO memory elements 127b through 127d and to the digital signal processor 101, and of which the right terminal is connected through a digital interface bus to the digital VTR (not shown). The respective circuit elements constituting the bidirectional circuit 133 are capable of the bidirectional operation and have different constants depending on the direction.

The operation of the bidirectional circuit 133 in the record mode of the digital VTR will be described first. The luminance signal (Y) of 16:9 aspect ratio and 18-MHz sampling frequency from the digital signal processor 101 is supplied through a delay element 137 and a low-pass filter 138 to a switching circuit 140. Also the output from the low-pass filter is supplied through a rate converter 139, by which it is converted from the signal of 18-MHz sampling frequency to a signal of 13.5-MHz sampling frequency. The output from the converter is supplied to the switching circuit 140. The output from the switching circuit 140 is supplied to a multiplexer/demultiplexer 141.

The multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 9-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio from the digital encoder are supplied through a low-pass filter 134 to a rate converter 135, thereby converted from the signal of 9-MHz sampling frequency to a signal of 6.75-MHz sampling frequency. The output signal from the low-pass filter 134 is supplied to a switching circuit 136, and the output from the switching circuit 136 is supplied to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 141. The multiplexer/demultiplexer 141 thus produces a time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+D) of 27-MHz or 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio. The identification signal indicating the 16:9 aspect ratio is added at a predetermined line number during the vertical blanking period of the luminance signal (Y) by an identification signal adding circuit 142.

The luminance signal (Y) of 13.5-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio from the FIFO memory

element 126b shown in Fig.3 is supplied through a delay element 143 and a low-pass filter (or low-pass filter for the luminance signal from the D-1 format digital VTR) 144 to a multiplexer/demultiplexer 147. The red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 13.5-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio from the FIFO memory elements 126c and 126d shown in Fig. 3 are supplied to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 147 through a multiplexer/demultiplexer 145 and a low-pass filter (or low-pass filter for red color difference signal and blue color difference signal from the D-1 format digital VTR) 146. The multiplexer/demultiplexer 147 produces a time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio, and supplies it to the switching circuit 148.

The switching circuit 148 produces a selected one of the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio and the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio, and supplies it through a digital interface to the digital VTR where it is recorded.

The operation of the bidirectional circuit 133 in the reproduce mode of the digital VTR will be described below. One of the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio; the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio and the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio is supplied through a digital interface to the switching circuit 148.

The time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio from the switching circuit 148 is supplied through the identification signal adding circuit 142 to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 141, thereby separated into the luminance signal (Y), multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y). The luminance signal (Y) is supplied through the switching circuit 140 to the rate converter 139, thereby converted from the signal of 13.5-MHz sampling frequency to the signal of 18-MHz sampling frequency. Then, the output from the converter is supplied through the low-pass filter 138 and delay element 137 to the digital encoder 102. The multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and the multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) are supplied through the switching circuit 136 to the rate converter 135, thereby converted from the signal of 6.75-MHz sampling signal to the signal of 9-MHz sampling signal. The output from the converter is supplied through the low-pass filter 134 to the digital encoder 102.

The time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 36-MHz and 16:9 aspect ratio from the switching circuit

148 is supplied through the identification signal adding circuit 142 to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 141, thereby separated into the luminance signal (Y), multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y). The luminance signal (Y) is supplied through the switch circuit 140, low-pass filter 138 and delay element 137 to the digital encoder 102. The multiplexed red color difference signal (B-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) are supplied through the switching circuit 136 and the low-pass filter 134 to the digital encoder 102.

The time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz and 4:3 aspect ratio from the switching circuit 148 is supplied to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 147, thereby separated into the luminance signal (Y), multiplexed blue color difference signal (R-Y), and multiplexed blue difference signal (B-Y). The luminance signal (Y) of 13.5-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio obtained through the low-pass filter 144 and delay element 143 is supplied to the digital encoder 129 shown in Fig.3, and to the FIFO memory element 127b so that its timebase is compressed at the rate of 12/16. After the aspect ratio is converted into 4:3, the luminance signal (Y) is supplied to the digital encoder 102 shown in Fig.1, and supplied through the identification signal adding circuit 122 to the D/A converter 123.

The multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) are supplied through the low-pass filter 146 to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 145. The red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 13.5-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio from the multiplexer/demultiplexer are supplied to the digital encoder 129 and to the FIFO memory elements 127c, 127d shown in Fig.3, thereby compressed at 12/16 in its timebase so that they are converted into the red color difference signal (R-Y) and blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 4:3 aspect ratio. Then, these color difference signals are supplied to the digital encoder 102 shown in Fig.1, and through the identification signal adding circuit 122 to the D/A converter 123.

A video camera of a second embodiment of the invention will be described with reference to Figs. 5 through 8. Figs. 5 to 8 show the four sections of the video camera of the embodiment 2. All or part of terminals 11 to 19 are provided at the circuit sections shown in Figs. 5 to 8. The terminals represented by the same reference numerals are connected to each other. While the two digital encoders 102 and 129 are provided in the first embodiment, one common digital encoder 233 is provided in this second embodiment.

The section shown in Fig.5 will be first mentioned. The picked-up signals from imaging devices of 16:9 aspect ratio not shown, for example, red, green and blue CCDs are supplied to A/D converters, thereby

converted into digital red, green and blue signals R, G, B of 18-MHz sampling frequency. These signals are supplied to a digital signal processor (DSP) 201, where they undergo signal processing (PR) and image enhancement processing (IE). This processor 101 is supplied with the digital title signal (Title) and digital title back signal (Title Back). The processor 201 produces:

- (1) the digital viewfinder luminance signal (VF-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (2) the digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (3) the digital luminance signal (Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (4) the digital red color difference signal (R-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio;
- (5) digital blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio; and
- (6) digital over lay signal (Over Lay Data).

These signals are supplied to a circuit 202.

The digital viewfinder luminance signal (VF-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio is supplied through a delay element 214 to an identification signal adding circuit 219, where an aspect ratio identification signal indicating that the aspect ratio is 16:9 is added to a predetermined line number of its vertical blanking period. Then, the identification added signal is supplied to a switching circuit 224. The digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio is supplied through a delay element 215 to a switching circuit 225. The digital luminance signal (Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio is supplied through a delay element 216 to an identification signal adding circuit 220, where an aspect ratio identification signal indicating that the aspect ratio is 16:9 is added to a predetermined line number of its vertical blanking period. The identification added signal is supplied to a switching circuit 226. The digital red color difference signal (R-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio is supplied through a delay element 217 to an identification signal adding circuit 221, where an aspect ratio identification signal indicating that the aspect ratio is 16:9 is added to a predetermined line number of its vertical blanking period. This identification added signal is supplied to a switching circuit 227. The digital blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio is supplied through a delay element 218 to an identification signal adding circuit 222, where an aspect ratio identification signal indicating that the aspect ratio is 16:9 is added to a predetermined line number of its vertical blanking period. This identification added signal is supplied to a switching-

circuit 228. The digital over lay signal (Over Lay Data) is supplied through a delay element 223 to a digital encoder 233 which will be described with reference to Fig.7.

Shown at 203 through 207 are timebase converting means, or FIFO memory elements of asynchronous writing and reading type. An FIFO control circuit 208 controls the FIFO memory elements 203 through 207 to write and read and clock signals to be selectively supplied.

The digital viewfinder luminance signal (VF-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, digital luminance signal (Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, digital red color difference signal (R-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, and digital blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio are supplied to the FIFO memory elements 203 through 207, and stored therein in response to the clock signal of 18-MHz [or 36-MHz only for the digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL)] from the FIFO control circuit 208.

An arbitrary video interval, 12/16 is cut away, as shown in Fig.12(II), from each line signal of the digital viewfinder luminance signal (VF-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, digital luminance signal (Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, digital red color difference signal (R-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, and digital blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio stored in the FIFO memory elements 203 through 207 as shown in Fig.12(I). Each cut video interval is read in response to the clock signal of 13.5 MHz [or 27-MHz only for the digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL)] from the FIFO control circuit 28 so that its timebase can be extended at the rate of 16/12 as shown in Fig.12(III). Then, these signals are supplied to rate converters (including interpolation filters) 209 through 213, by which the sampling frequency is converted from 13.5 MHz [or 27 MHz only for the digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL)] into 18 MHz [(or 36 MHz only for the digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL)]. Thus, the rate converters produce the viewfinder digital luminance signal (VF-Y) of 4:3 aspect ratio, digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL), digital luminance signal (Y), digital red color difference signal (R-Y) and digital blue color difference signal (B-Y), and supplies them to switching circuits 224 through 228, respectively. The switching circuits 224 through 228 are controlled to operate by a switching control signal (4:3/16:9 sel.).

Another section will be described with reference to Fig.6. The digital luminance signal (Y), digital red color difference signal (R-Y) and digital blue differ-

ence signal (B-Y) of 4:3 or 16:9 aspect ratio and 18-Mhz sampling frequency from the switching circuits 226 through 228 shown in Fig. 5 are supplied to an identification signal adding circuit 229, where when the aspect ratio is 16:9, an identification signal indicating that the aspect ratio is 16:9 is added to a predetermined line number of the vertical blanking period of each signal. The identification added signals are supplied to a D/A converter 230, thereby converted into analog signals. Then, the analog signals are supplied to a low-pass filter 231 of which the cutoff frequency is 18 MHz, so that the high-frequency components are removed. Thus, the filter produces the analog luminance signal (Y), analog red color difference signal (R-Y) and analog blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 4:3 or 16:9 aspect ratio. The luminance signal (Y) is supplied to an adder 232, where it is added with the horizontal and vertical synchronizing signals and color-burst signal.

Another section will be described with reference to Fig.7. The viewfinder digital luminance signal (VF-Y), digital high-resolution detail signal (DTL), digital luminance signal (Y), digital red color difference signal (R-Y) and digital blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 or 16:9 aspect ratio, and the digital over lay signal (Over Lay Data) from the delay element 223 are supplied to a digital encoder 233. The digital encoder 233 produces the viewfinder digital video signal (VF Video) and digital marker signal (Marker) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 or 4:3 aspect ratio, and a test output digital composite color video signal (Composite) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio.

The digital encoder 233 has identification signal adding circuits 234, 235 by which an aspect ratio identification signal of one bit indicating that the aspect ratio is 16:9 is added to a predetermined line number of each vertical blanking period of the luminance signal (VF-Y), (Y).

The viewfinder digital video signal (VF Video) from the digital encoder 233 is supplied to a D/A converter 236, thereby converted into an analog signal. The viewfinder analog video signal is supplied through a low-pass filter 236 of which the cutoff frequency is 18 MHz and through a change-over switch 238 to an adder 239. The marker signal (Marker) from the digital encoder 233 is supplied to an OR gate 244, and a digital character signal from an external character signal generator (not shown) is supplied to the OR gate 244. The character signal from the output of the OR gate is supplied through a low-pass filter/attenuator 245 and an on-off switch 246 to the adder 239, where it is added to the output signal from the change-over switch 238. A return video signal (a broadcasting video signal, a reproduced signal from a VTR or the like) of 16:9 or 4:3 aspect ratio is selected by a change-over switch 241 and then supplied through an on-off switch 240 to the adder 239. The

output from the adder 239 is supplied to a viewfinder (for example, a CRT receiver) 242. The viewfinder 242 includes an identification signal detector 243 which detects the presence and absence of an identification signal for 16:9 aspect ratio.

When the identification signal for 16:9 aspect ratio is not detected at a predetermined line number of the blanking period of the viewfinder video signal by the identification signal detector 243, the viewfinder 242 controls the image to be directly displayed on the CRT having 4:3 aspect ratio. When the identification signal is detected, the viewfinder controls the vertical deflection circuit for CRT is controlled to deflect the image substantially at 3/4 the original vertical amplitude, thus a reproduced image of 16:9 aspect ratio being displayed.

The digital composite video signal of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 or 4:3 aspect ratio from the digital encoder 233 is supplied to a D/A converter 118, thereby converted into an analog signal. The analog composite color video signal is supplied through a low-pass filter 248 of which the cutoff frequency is 36 MHz, to an adder 249, where it is added or not added with a character signal that is fed through an on-off switch 250 from the low-pass filter/attenuator 245. This adder produces the analog composite color video signal (VBS) of 16:9 or 4:3 aspect ratio.

Another circuit section will be described with reference to Fig.8. Shown at 268 is a bidirectional circuit of which the left side is connected to the switching circuit 226 and digital encoder 233, and of which the right side is connected through a digital interface to the digital VTR (not shown). The circuit elements constituting this bidirectional circuit 268 can be operated in both directions and have different constants depending on the direction.

The bidirectional circuit 268 in the record mode of the digital VTR will be described first. The luminance signal (Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio from the switching circuit 226 is supplied through a delay element 261 and a low-pass filter 262 to a switching circuit 254 and also to a rate converter 263, by which the sampling frequency is converted from 18 MHz into 13.5 MHz. The output from the rate converter is supplied to the switching circuit 264. The output from the switching circuit 264 is supplied to a multiplexer/demultiplexer 265.

The multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio from the digital encoder 233 are supplied through a low-pass filter 258 to a rate converter 259, by which the sampling frequency is converted from 9 MHz to 6.75 MHz. The output from the low-pass filter 258 is supplied to a switching circuit 260. The output from the switching circuit 260 is supplied to a multiplexer/demultiplexer 265. This multiplexer/demultiplexer

265 produces a time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+D) of 27-MHz or 36-MHz and 16:9 aspect ratio. An identification signal indicating that the aspect ratio is 16:9 is added to a predetermined line number of the vertical blanking period of the luminance signal (Y) by an identification signal adding circuit 266. The output from the identification signal adding circuit is supplied to a switching circuit 267.

The luminance signal (Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio from the switching circuit 266 shown in Fig.5 is supplied through a delay element 253 and a low-pass filter (low-pass filter for the luminance signal from the D-1 format digital VTR) 254 to a rate converter 255, by which the sampling frequency is converted from 18 MHz to 13.5 MHz, and supplied to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 256. The red color difference/blue color difference signal (R-Y/B-Y) of 18-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio from the digital encoder 233 shown in Fig.7 is supplied through a low-pass filter (low-pass filter for red color difference and blue color difference signals) 251 to a rate converter 252, by which the sampling frequency is converted from 9 MHz into 6.75 MHz. The output from the rate converter is supplied to a multiplexer/demultiplexer 256. The multiplexer/demultiplexer 256 produces a time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio, and supplies it to a switching circuit 267.

The switching circuit 267 produces a selected one of the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, time-sharing multiplexed signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, and time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio, and supplies the selected one through a digital interface to the digital VTR, where it is recorded.

The operation of the bidirectional circuit 268 in the reproduce mode of the digital VTR will be described below. One of the time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 36-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, time-sharing multiplexed signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio, and time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio is selectively supplied through a digital interface to the switching circuit 267.

The time-sharing multiplex signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 16:9 aspect ratio from the switching circuit 267 is supplied through the identification signal adding circuit 266 to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 265, thereby separated into the luminance signal (Y), multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y), and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y). The luminance signal (Y) is supplied through the switching circuit 264 to the rate converter 263, by which the sampling frequency is converted from 13.5

MHz into 18 MHz. The output from the rate converter is supplied through the low-pass filter 262 and delay element 261 to the digital encoder 233. The multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) are supplied through the switching circuit 260 to the rate converter 259, by which the sampling frequency is converted from 6.7 MHz into 9 MHz. The output from the rate converter is supplied through the low-pass filter 258 to the digital encoder 233.

The time-sharing multiplexed signal (Y+U+V) of 36-MHz and 16:9 aspect ratio from the switching circuit 267 is supplied through the identification signal adding circuit 266 to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 141, thereby separated into the luminance signal (Y), multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y). The luminance signal (Y) is supplied through the switching circuit 264, low-pass filter 262 and delay element 261 to the digital encoder 233. The multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) are supplied through the switching circuit 260 and low-pass filter 258 to the digital encoder 102.

The time-sharing multiplexed signal (Y+U+V) of 27-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio from the switching circuit 267 is supplied to the multiplexer/demultiplexer 265, thereby separated into the luminance signal (Y), multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y) and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y). The luminance signal (Y) is supplied through the low-pass filter 262 and the delay element 261, and the luminance signal (Y) of 13.5-MHz sampling frequency and 4:3 aspect ratio produced from this delay element is supplied to the digital encoder 233 shown in Fig.7.

The multiplexed red color difference signal (R-Y), and multiplexed blue color difference signal (B-Y) are supplied through the low-pass filter 146 to the digital encoder 233.

While in the above embodiment the aspect ratio identification signal is added to the video signal of 16:9 aspect ratio, the aspect ratio identification signal may be added to the video signal of 4:3 aspect ratio.

Claims

1. An apparatus for selectively outputting a video signal of first aspect ratio and a video signal of second aspect ratio and comprising:
imaging means for producing a video signal of said first aspect ratio;
converting means (126) for converting the first aspect ratio video signal from said imaging means into a video signal of said second aspect ratio; characterized by
identifier adding means (103) for adding

an aspect ratio identification signal indicative of the aspect ratio to one of the video signals.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising output means for selectively outputting said first and second aspect ratio video signals.
3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the output means further comprises means (123-125, 129-131) for simultaneously outputting the first and second aspect ratio video signals.
4. Apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3 further comprising mark adding means (104) for adding a mark signal indicative of a range in which the second aspect ratio video signal is displayed in said first aspect ratio video signal.
5. An apparatus for selectively outputting a video signal of first aspect ratio and a video signal of second aspect ratio and comprising:
imaging means for producing a video signal of said first aspect ratio;
converting means (126) for converting the first aspect ratio video signal from said imaging means into a video signal of said second aspect ratio;
output means for selectively outputting said first and second aspect ratio video signals; characterized by
mark adding means (104) for adding a mark signal indicative of a range in which the second aspect ratio video signal is displayed to the first aspect ratio signal.
6. Apparatus according to claim 4 or 5 further comprising a display for displaying said video signal with the added mark signal.
7. The apparatus according to claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein
said mark signal is two vertical straight lines indicative of portions corresponding to left and right boundaries of the second aspect ratio video signal.
8. The apparatus according to claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein
said mark signal is a signal for making black a portion except the second aspect ratio video signal.
9. The apparatus according to claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein
said mark signal is a signal for making white a portion except the second aspect ratio video signal.

10. The apparatus according to claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein

said mark signal is a signal for making predetermined color a portion except the second aspect ratio video signal.

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11. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the aspect ratios are 4:3 and 16:9.

12. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the converting means (126) comprises timebase extending means which is supplied with said first aspect ratio video signal from said imaging means, extracts a video interval, xY/yX from each line signal of said first aspect ratio video signal, and extends the timebase by yX/xY times so as to produce said second aspect ratio video signal.

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FIG. 1

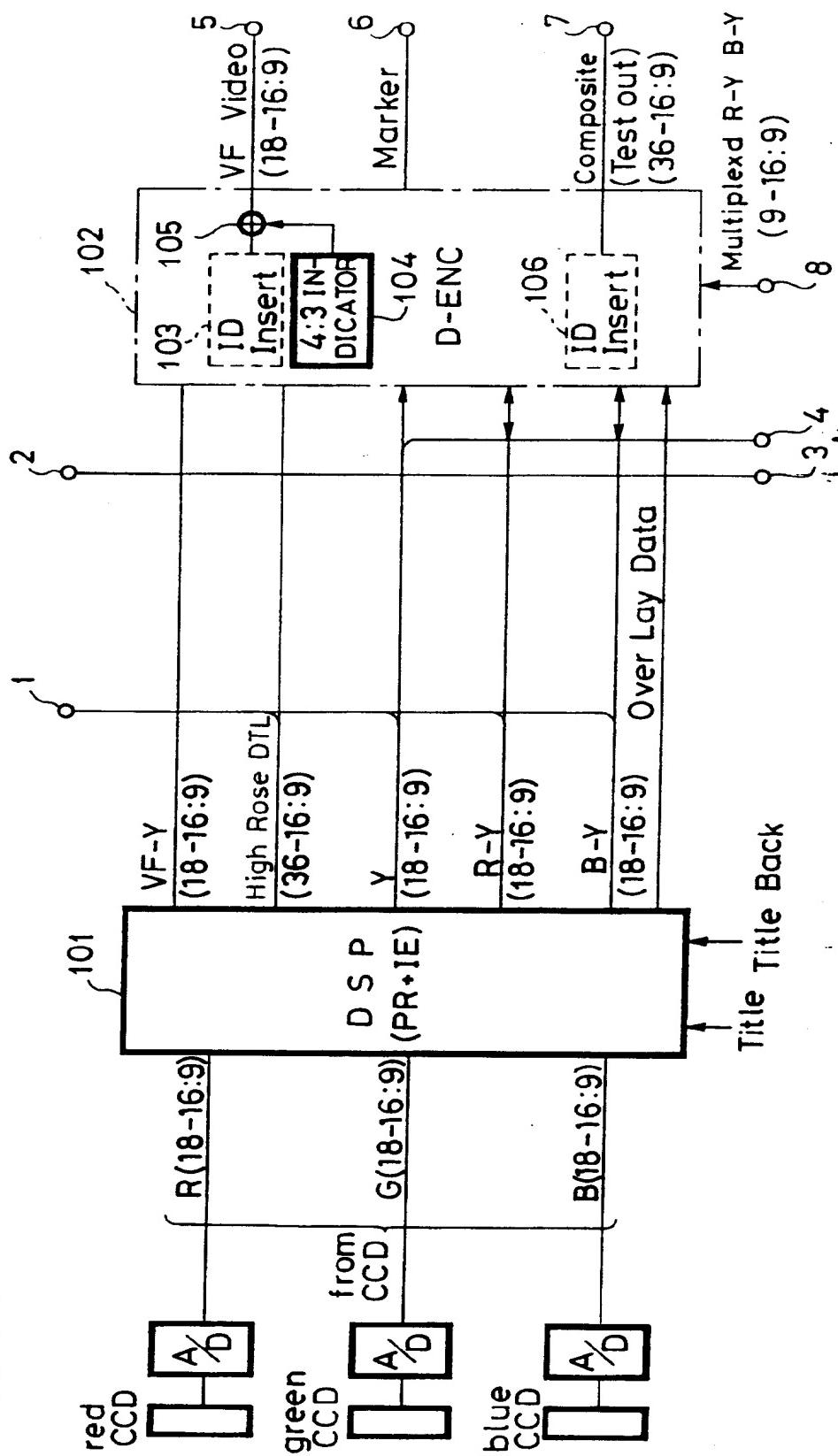


FIG. 2

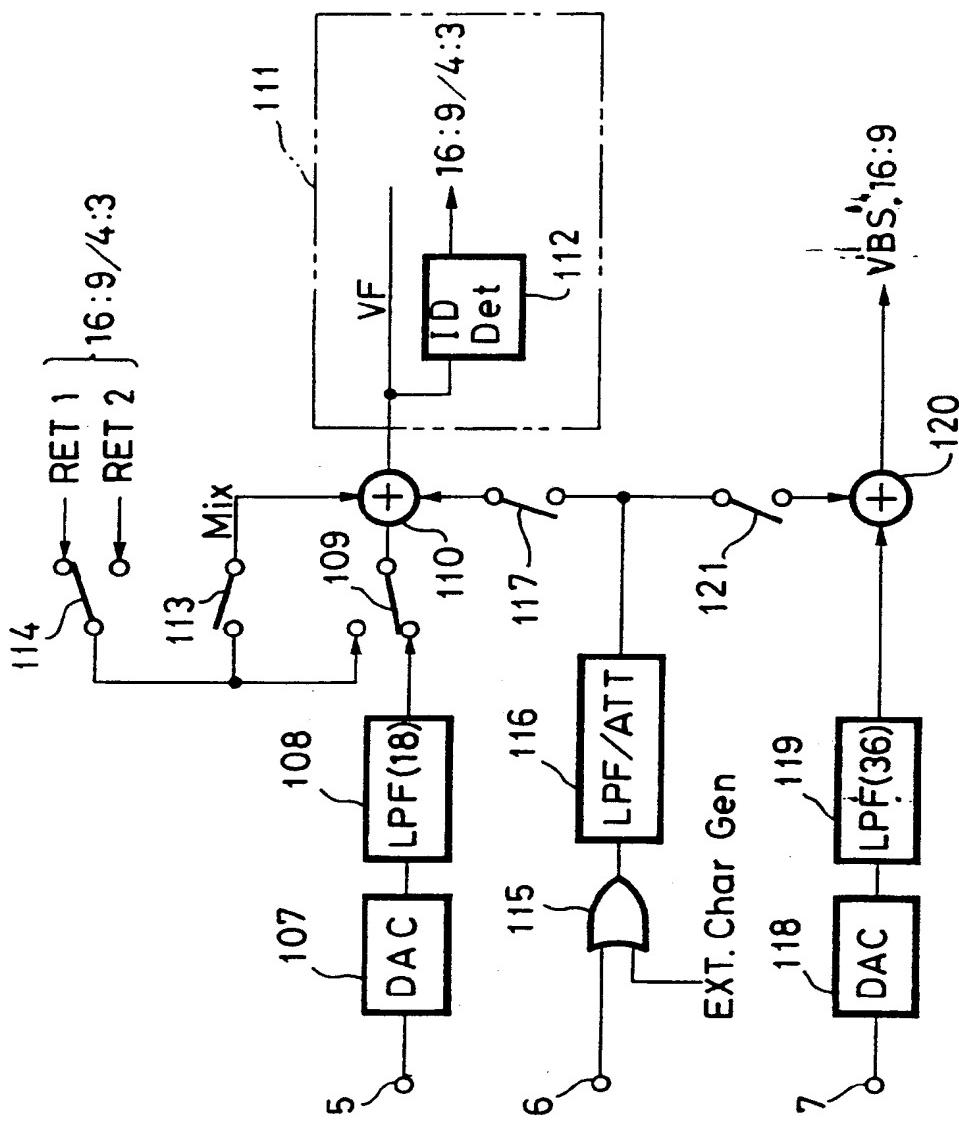


FIG. 3

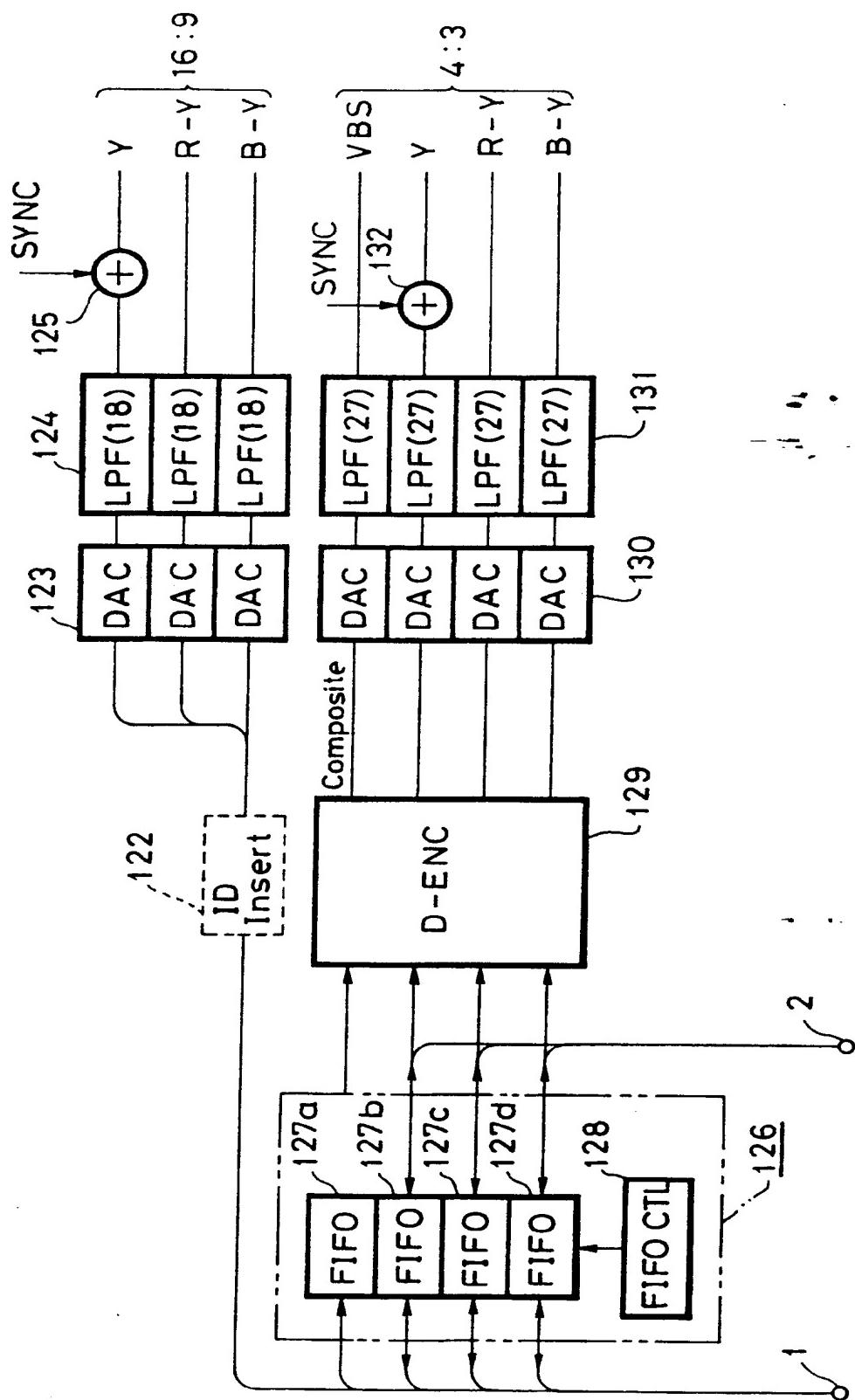


FIG. 4

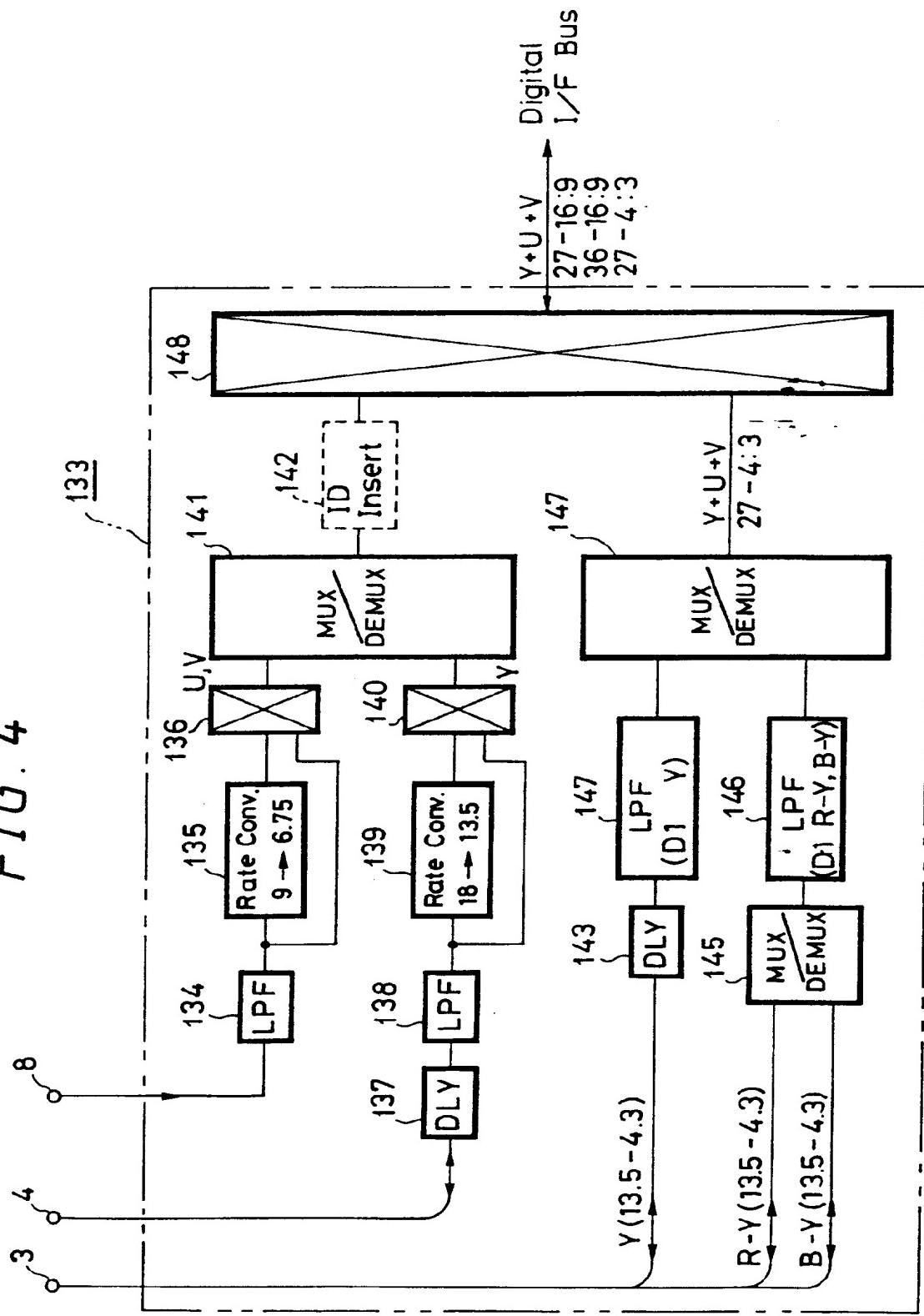


FIG. 5

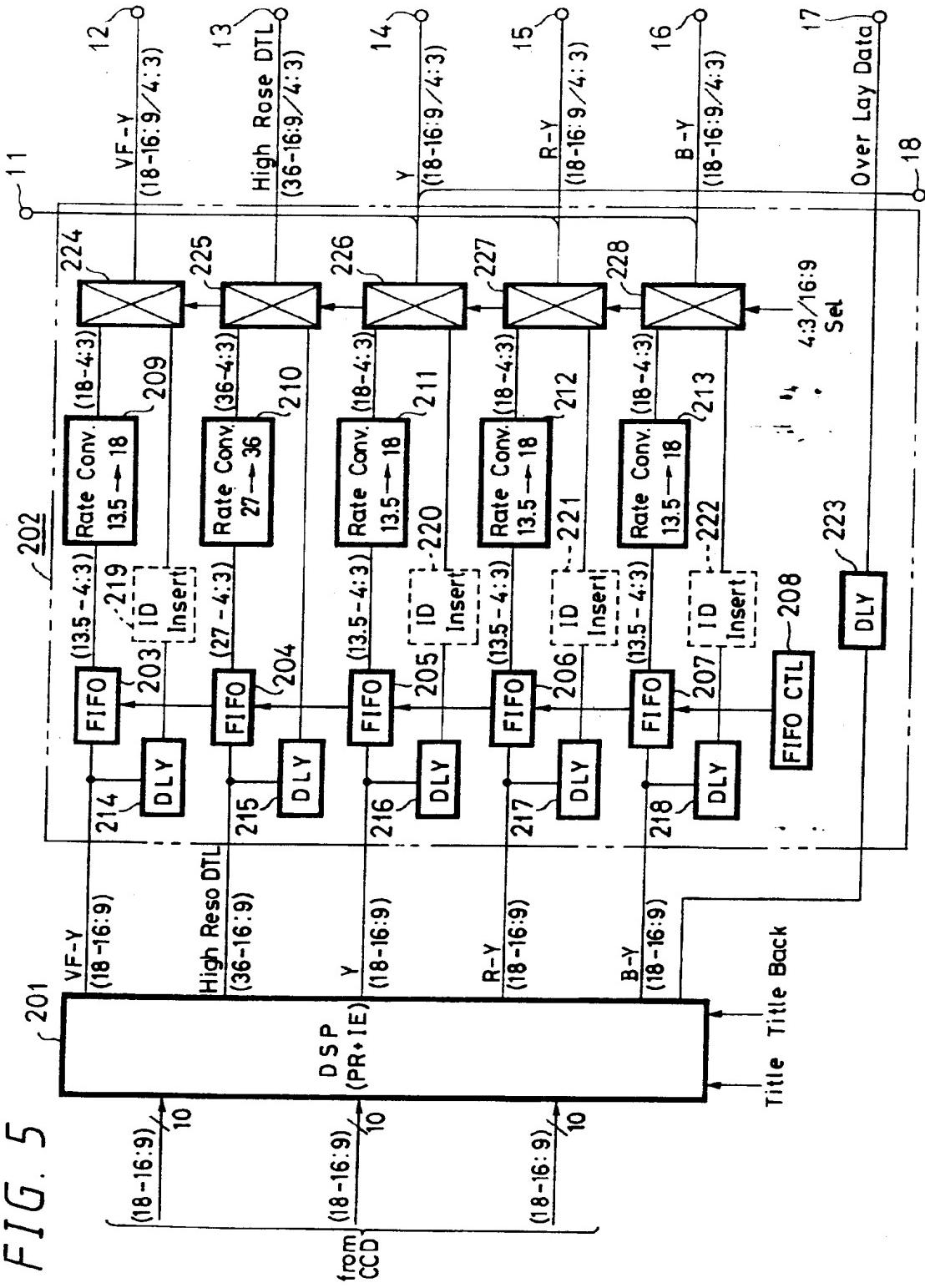


FIG. 6

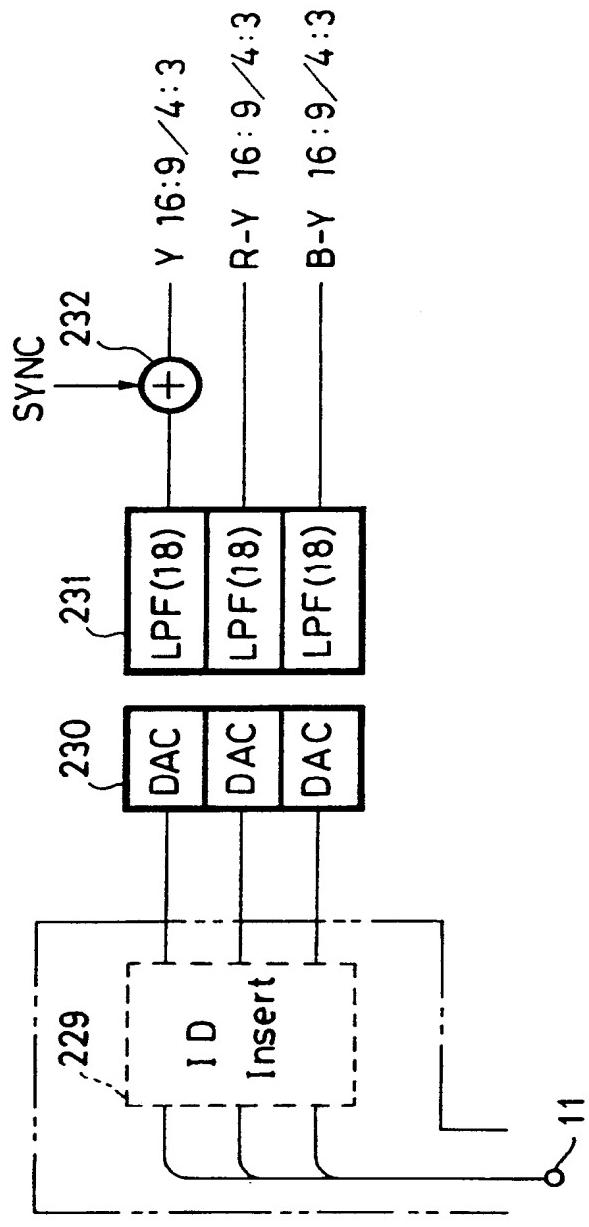


FIG. 7

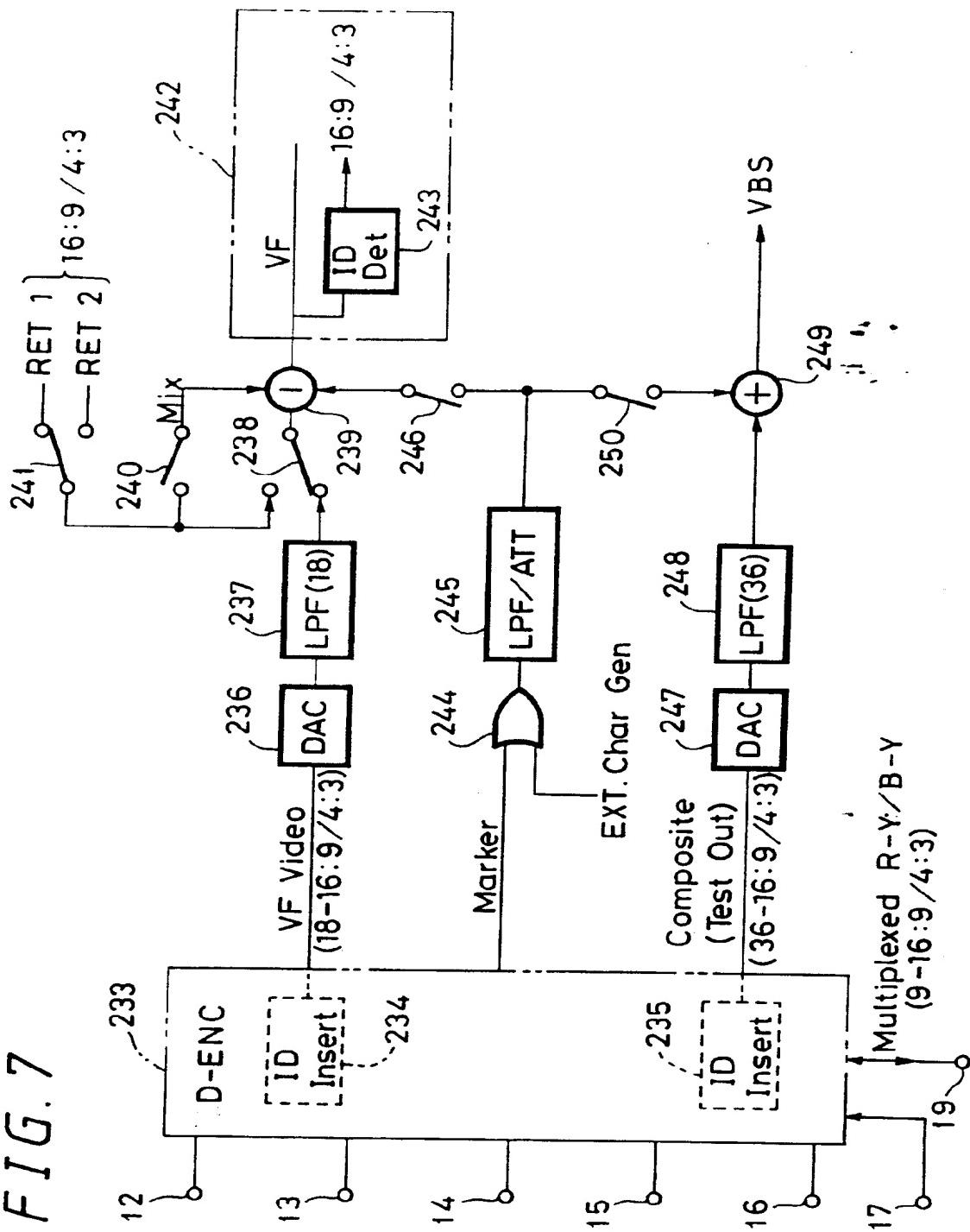


FIG. 8

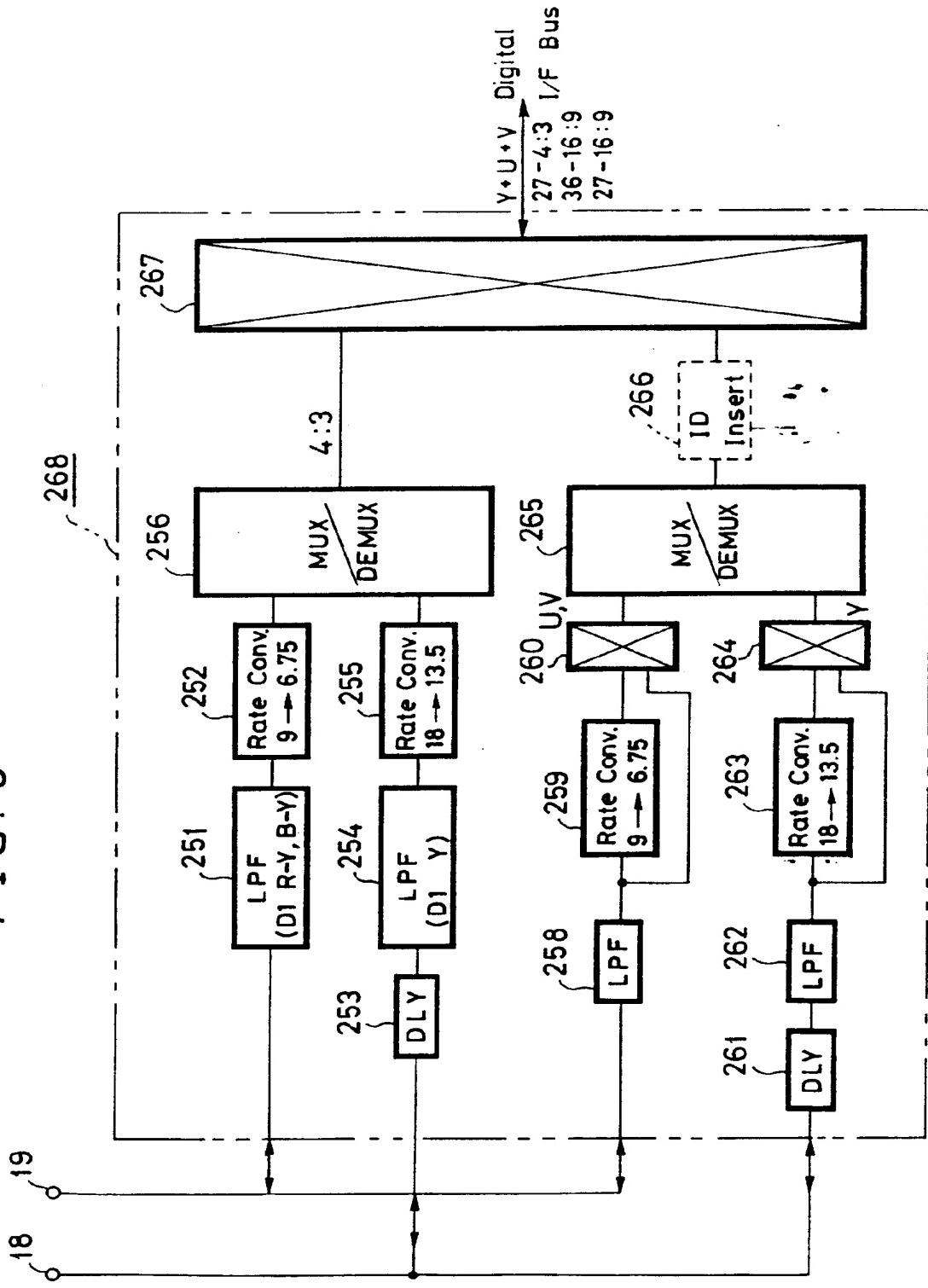


FIG. 9A

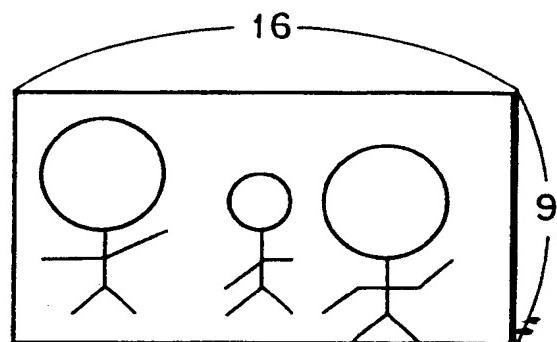


FIG. 9B

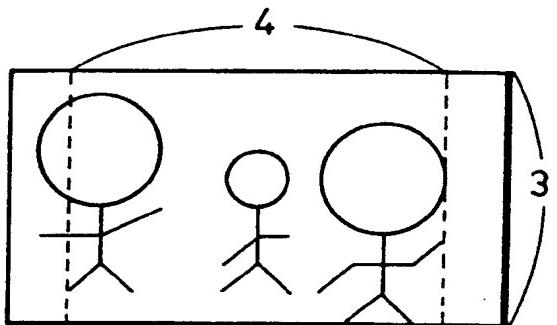
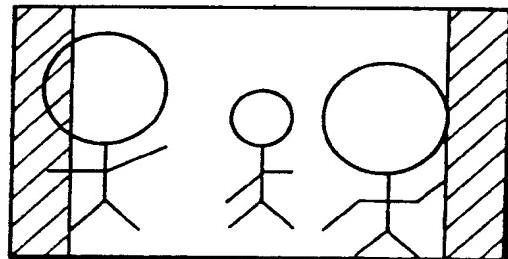


FIG. 9C



Displayed images of different aspect ratios

FIG. 10A

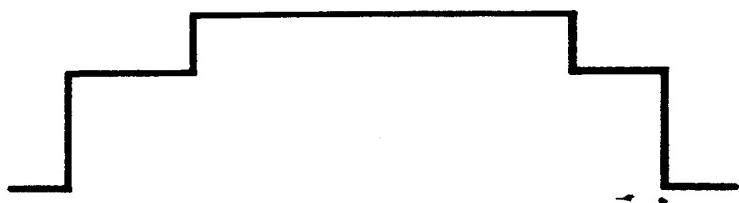


FIG. 10B

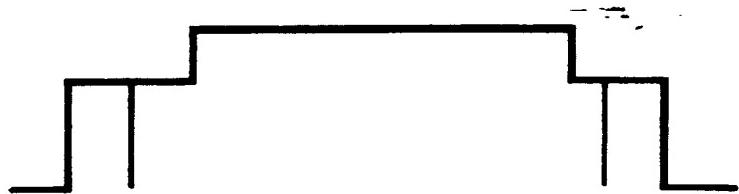


FIG. 10C

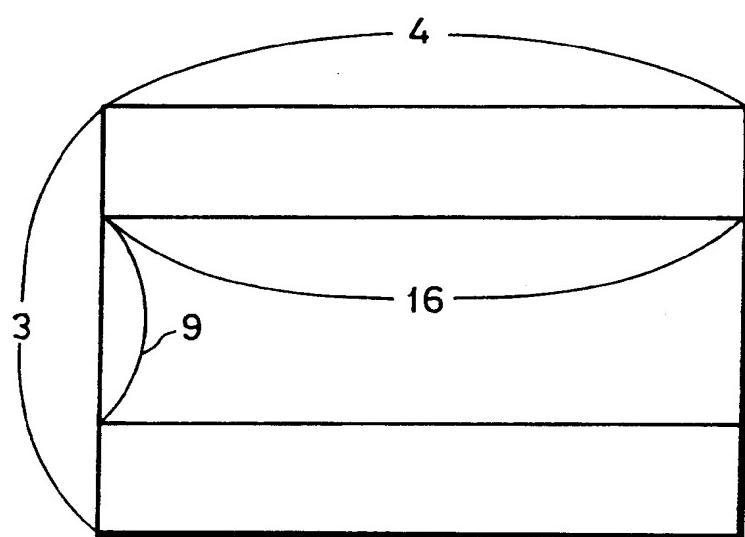


FIG. 10D

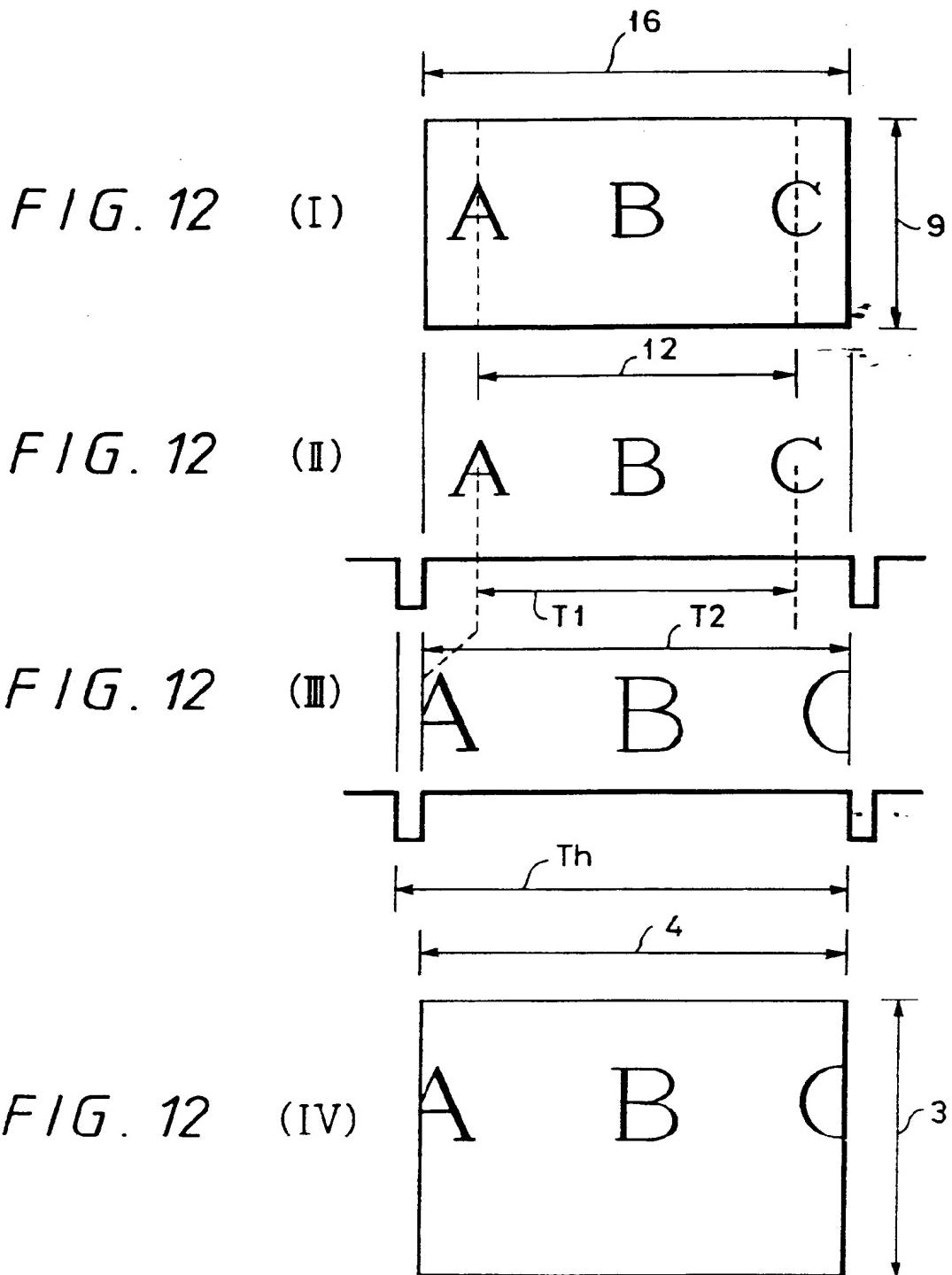


Video signals including mark signal

FIG. 11

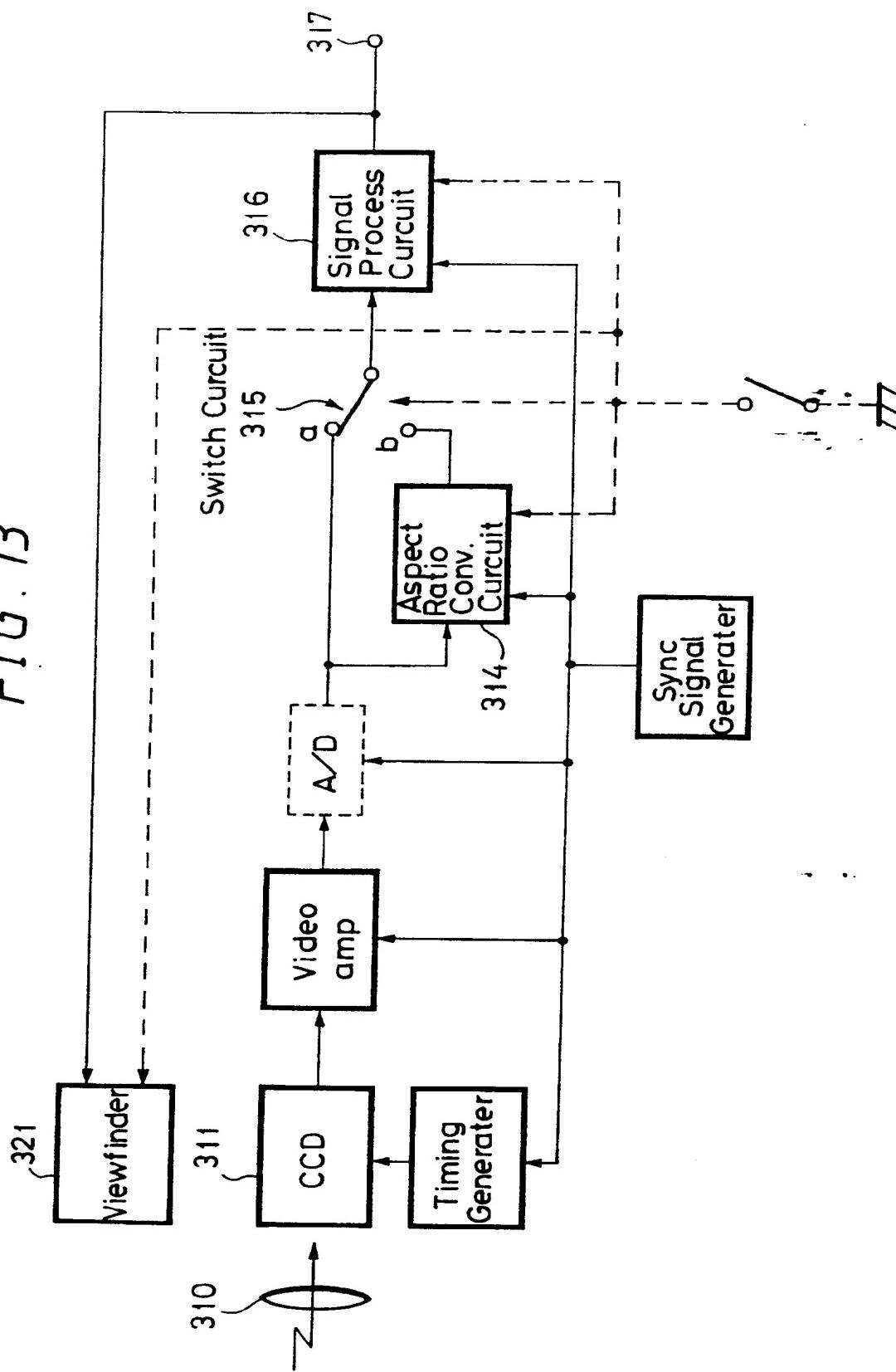


Effect screen of CRT



Conversion of 16:9 → 4:3

FIG. 13





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 30 1669

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	EP-A-0 411 440 (HITACHI, LTD.) * column 13, line 41 - column 15, line 21 * * column 18, line 49 - column 19, line 6; figures 1,2,13-15,18 *	1-12	H04N5/335
A	IEEE 1991 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS DIGEST OF TECHNICAL PAPERS 5 June 1991, ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS, US pages 160 - 161 TAKUYA IMAIDE ET AL 'A Digital Video Camera with an Arbitrary Aspect Ratio' * the whole document *	1-12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H04N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN	Date of completion of the search 18 JUNE 1993	Examiner DUDLEY C.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			